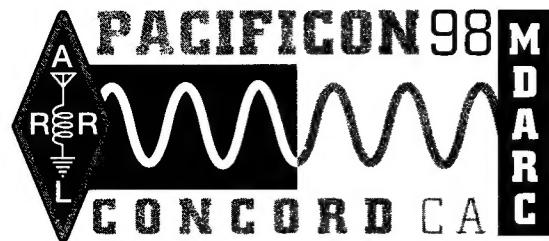




American Radio Relay League

1998 ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION REPORT

August, 1998



AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION

DIRECTOR

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
18400 Overlook Road, #5
Los Gatos, CA 95030-5850
(408) 395-2501
Packet: K6WR@NOARY.#NOCA
INTERNET: K6WR@arrl.org

Brad Wyatt, K6WR ARRL Pacific Division Director 1998 Midyear Status Report

This is my fifth Division Newsletter as Director of the Pacific Division, so I would like to outline some of my thoughts for 1998 and beyond and what we accomplished in 1997.

The year 1997 was a momentous and exciting year for the Pacific Division and Amateur Radio. 1998 continues at the same pace, and I expect it to remain that way. I hope that I was able to represent you in the Amateur Radio world as you expected. I will certainly try to live up to your expectations. The results we obtain will be because of a concerted effort by many people. Please call or write or send messages by whatever means you can to discuss the topics of interest to you.

Many have asked for more information about the role of the Director. I am one of 15 geographically-chosen Directors charged with the responsibility of developing national policy for the ARRL, both internally and externally as with Congress and FCC. The Pacific Division consists of California from the Oregon border to the southern boundary of Kern Co.; the entire state of Nevada; the State of Hawaii; and the U. S. islands in the Pacific Ocean. One of the aspects of this policy making job is to develop the environment within which the operational parts of the League headed by the elected Section Managers can operate success-

PACIFICON 98

HOT LINE: (925) 932-6125
INTERNET: www.mdarc.org
email: pacifcon@designlink.com

A New Location for Pacificon

PACIFICON 98 Moves to Concord's Airport Sheraton

This year **Pacificon** will be held at the Airport Sheraton Hotel in Concord, California (see updated map), about 25 miles NE of Sam Francisco. It is only about 4 minutes drive from the past Pacificon site, The Airport Sheraton offers larger facilities, more meeting rooms, and better parking. Further, all **Pacificon** exhibitor spaces will be together under one roof, just across the Sheraton parking lot in the adjacent hanger of Pacific States Aviation.

This year's swap meet will be held on the aircraft parking ramp adjacent to the Sheraton Hotel. Read more about the swap meet in this newsletter.

fully. Some of these areas include: emergency communications, club operations, the effort to maintain order within the amateur bands, public information, traffic, and other activities.

I would like to welcome the new Section Managers who have taken office since this time last year: Pacific Section Manager, Ron Phillips, AH6HN; San Francisco Section Manager, John Wallack, W6TLK; and Santa Clara Valley Section Manager, Geoffrey Ellis, KD6MFM. Thanks to Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, who served well in Santa Clara Valley; Tom Orman, KD6VWD, who served well in

VICE DIRECTOR

Jim Maxwell, W6CF
P. O. Box 473
Redwood Estates, CA 95044
(408) 353-3911
Packet: W6CF@NOARY.#NOCA
INTERNET: W6CF@arrl.org

San Francisco; and Dean Manley, KH6B, who served so well in Pacific. Thanks also to Sacramento Valley SM Jettie Hill, W6RFF; San Joaquin Valley SM Don Costello, W7WN; Nevada SM Bob Davis, K7IY; and East Bay SM Bob Vallio, W6RGG, for continuing on.

Thanks also to all the volunteers at the Division, Section and local levels for a great job in 1997! Keep it up in 1998!

Since January 1994, when I became Director, I have been meeting personally with the District Directors of the FCC Compliance and Information Bureau (CIB) Offices in the Pacific Division area. The Section Managers have met each year with the CIB staff at Pacificon. With four new FCC Commissioners and a new Chief of the CIB installed in late 1997, there now appears to be a renewed interest in enforcement of FCC Rules in all services. To focus on the Amateur Radio aspect, the ARRL Board has appointed an Enforcement Task Force. Further, there have been several significant public pronouncements by key CIB executives that they "will enforce the Amateur Rules" -- at the National Association of Broadcasters Convention in Las Vegas in April and at the International DX Convention in Visalia in May. As a result of these activities I hope that we will see renewed CIB vigor to "enforce the rules". The ARRL and the Pacific Division plan to keep pushing aggressively to clean up our bands.

I continue to meet individually with each of my appointed Assistant Directors, Volunteer Counsels, Volunteer Consult-

ing Engineers, DXAC and CAC Advisory Committee Representatives in the Division to make certain that we each understand our roles and interests. I plan Cabinet meetings twice a year where they and the Section Managers meet before each semi-annual ARRL Board meeting. At our Cabinet meetings we discuss topics to bring to the ARRL Headquarters Staff, ARRL Board or Board Advisory Committees as your representatives. Of course, I would also like very much to hear from each of you concerning your wishes.

Another continuing part of my efforts is to visit clubs, hamfests, and conventions involving all the interests in Amateur Radio in the Division. These forums are another one of the key methods I use to understand your individual interests and desires. Such visits also show my strong support of local clubs and their activities; I believe that local clubs are the backbone of Amateur Radio. Clearly, these visits are part of an effort to introduce non-ARRL members to the League and its many services. The more members we have in the League, the stronger is our voice when dealing with the FCC and other government entities.

The ARRL is far more than a subscription to QST - ARRL is the only real voice the amateurs have on a national level!

Legal issues related to amateur operations such as antenna ordinances and CC&Rs are of increasing concern; therefore, another area of focus relates to legal strategies for the Pacific Division. This comprehensive project is under the guidance of Assistant Director and Volunteer Counsel Coordinator, Phil Kane, K2ASP.

We face continuing antenna restriction problems due to the presence of commercial cellular and PCS interests. Phil and the other Volunteer Counsels and many Amateurs are working diligently to help you protect your ability to erect towers and antennas in the face of substantial new restrictions planned by municipalities, counties and other entities.

Here are some other more specific specialized areas which require attention

and will continue to require attention in the future:

The Future of Amateur Radio.

1994 saw the completion of the Strategic Long Range Plan of ARRL. Details of the plan are to be found in the April 1995 QST. The Board plans to revisit the Plan in 1998. ARRL continues to implement this plan daily, and you will notice the changes in direction throughout the years in various functional areas. This plan and its implementation will set the direction for Amateur Radio for the next several years.

Without spectrum, there will be no Amateur Radio. The FCC/NTIA/Congress continues to threaten to withdraw Amateur Radio spectrum by auctioning off spectrum to the highest commercial bidder. The major part of this threat comes from the Spectrum Auction programs mandated by Congress to raise billions of dollars for various purposes.

1997 witnessed the efforts by the Little LEO satellite folks to enter our 2 meter, 219-225 MHz and 70 centimeter bands for their commercial purposes. Currently, the Land Mobile Communications Council has petitioned FCC for the primary allocation in the 70 CM band, effectively removing the Amateur Radio Service. Other commercial entities are interested in sharing our bands up through 24 GHz. So far, we appear to have been successful, in large measure, defending our spectrum allocations, but we must continue to be alert. Special Pacific Division Alert Teams have been established for each threatened band to work with ARRL to develop positions to defend our bands.

The key meeting in 1997 was the World Radio Conference 1997 in Geneva, Switzerland, where we held our own. There have been and will continue to be many articles in QST, The ARRL Letter and the Pacific Division Update to keep you informed about these spectrum allocation battles.

Many of these activities require information from FCC in the form of dockets and other materials. Currently, the FCC produces this material in hardcopy format only. So, for Pacific

Division members to be able to be informed and then to comment, it is necessary to convert these hardcopy documents into machine readable form. I have been blessed with two folks who have helped immensely with this task on a timely basis -- Dewayne Hendricks, WA8DZP, Pacific Division Assistant Director and Chairman of the TAPR Regulatory Affairs Committee, also member of the ARRL Future Systems Committee, and Glen Lokke, KE6NBO, Editor of the SVECS Newsletter and diligent provider of conversions from hardcopy to machine readable so we can get the information to you. My thanks to both of them for their efforts over the last years.

Legislative Activities.

H. R. 3572, The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998 was introduced in the House earlier this year. The details are available from many sources including June 1998 QST page 15-16. In the Pacific Division many are working diligently to ask congressmen and women to become cosponsors. While we have signed up some, please help us sign up your Congress person to help pass of this key legislation.

Experimentation

Experimentation is key to the future of Amateur Radio. Several Pacific Division hams are prominent in new and unique experimental work involving Spread Spectrum and microwave service. Some efforts are stand alone and others are in conjunction with other Amateur Radio groups such as TAPR and AMSAT.

"Vanity" (Preferred) callsigns.

In 1994, I was one of 5 Directors appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee to develop the ARRL Comments to the FCC docket 93-305. All Gates are now open so any ham can obtain a Vanity callsign.

RF Exposure rules.

On Jan. 1, 1998, new rules concerning RF exposure in the Amateur Radio Service went into effect. It is clear that the vast majority of hams will already be

in compliance; however, it is wise to note your compliance effort in your logbook or other suitable document. The ARRL Lab, working with the FCC, have developed very straight forward approaches to determine compliance by publishing several articles and a book specifically targeted on this topic.

Other issues will arise, they always do. Your entire League organization works very hard to stay ahead of and on top of the issues, but we can always use more help. Please be watchful.

Vice Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, is a key member of the team. His counsel and advice on all aspects of the Division activities has been extremely valuable. In addition, I have asked him to continue to help me with the conversion to electronic methods of news distribution. We are continuing the monthly Pacific Division Director Update distributed to all club newsletter editors in printed form. In addition, Special Editions of the Update are published in electronic form for distribution to those who can be reached using this medium. In addition, all these Updates are available on the Pacific Division WWW site -- pdarrl.org. Many subscribers have moved to various modes of electronic media including posting on packet bulletin boards throughout the Division and transmission over the Internet.

In 1997, the Pacific Division site on the World Wide Web expanded yet again thanks to Paul Wesling, KM6LH, the Division Webmaster and his team. Many new features have been added and more will be over time. Take a look at pdarrl.org.

The Pacific Division WWW site linked to the ARRL Home Page and various Section and Club pages, has provided a great supplement to the monthly Pacific Division Update as a means of keeping the Pacific Division members informed on all topics of interest in Amateur Radio. *QST*, the ARRL Letter, and the ARRL Letter Audio Service round out the easily available news sources.

My thanks to all the members of the Mount Diablo ARC and to Greg Estep, KE6VTA, and Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS, **Pacificon '98** co-Chairmen, for running the **Pacificon '98** Convention. MDARC has done a magnificent job these last six years as the hosts -- it will be very hard to top those years, but I am sure they will!

I look forward to meeting many of you at **Pacificon '98** October 16 - 18 in Concord to discuss these and other issues of interest to you. Please look me up so we can talk!

Welcome, all of you, to **Pacificon '98**!

73,
Brad Wyatt,
K6WR

Forums and Seminars

PACIFICON '98's Friday Antenna Seminar Program

Ray Gaschk, W6FYA, Elk Antennas, is organizing another excellent group of speakers for this year's all-day Friday antenna session. Starting with antenna basics, the theory level is well suited to amateur radio. Everyone leaves these seminars with lots of ideas to try to improve both their transmitted and received signals.

Based on previous years, this will be a sellout, even with standing room only attendance. You had better get your ticket early if you don't want to miss this outstanding ham event.

Be sure to mark your **Pacificon '98** ticket order form for your reservation for the antenna seminar. There is a \$10.00 charge for tickets to this outstanding Friday-only antenna seminar. The seminar runs from 8:00 am to just after 5:00 pm, with a break for lunch (lunch is not included).

FRIDAY ANTENNA PROGRAM

Ray always succeeds in lining-up six or seven outstanding speakers covering most aspects of antenna theory, design, and construction for amateur radio operators.

One of Ray's speakers this year is Stan Schwarz, a Professor of Electrical Engineering at U. C. Berkeley. Prof Schwarz

will discuss antenna basics and millimeter-wave antennas, and describe an interesting high speed transmission scheme using millimeter-wave antennas for data transmission from board to board.

For those interested in trying software for antennas, Jerry Burke of Lawrence Livermore National Lab will discuss his popular antenna design program, called NEC. While most hams won't go for the professional version, there is an affordable amateur version available to hamradio operators.

And, while not strictly antennas, David Rutledge, KN6EK, will discuss inexpensive, high-power Class-E RF amplifiers for ham use. David is Professor of Electrical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology. Over the last few years, Caltech students have been developing Class-E power amplifiers for amateur communications. These amplifiers are based on inexpensive power MOSFETs like those used in power supplies. The Class-E amplifiers have an efficiency of about 90 percent, so they can be used in CW communications without a fan. Depending on the band, the output power ranges from 200 W to 500 W. The amplifiers can be driven for modified QRP rigs. The parts for the amplifiers cost \$50, and the amplifiers are designed so that they can be built and tuned by the user. David's research is in microwave and millimeter-wave integrated circuits, and in RF power amplifiers. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, and a winner of the Distinguished Educator Award of the Microwave Theory and Techniques Society.

The last part of the day, is devoted to your Questions & Answers on antennas and a drawing for Elk 2M and 440 Log Periodic Antennas

ANTENNA BUILDERS NOTE: On Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, the **50 MHz and Up Club** will measure the gain of your VHF or UHF antenna.

Internet and Ham Radio

More and more hams are linking their ham rigs with the Internet. Learn how to use the Internet and the World Wide Web. Learn what is available and how it will affect amateur radio.

At **Pacificon '98** there will be hands-on demonstrations and an opportunity to

ask questions about ham use of the Internet, which can provide the ham with "freeware" and "shareware" programs useful to ham radio operators -- and to those interested in becoming a ham radio operator. Ask for directions to freeware for learning the Morse code -- available for both PC and Macintosh platforms.

APRS

APRS, the Automatic Position Reporting System, is a fast-growing part of amateur radio. APRS is a packet radio software package that displays the locations of user stations on a map drawn on your computer at home or in your shack. It will also show your location after you enter your coordinates.

If you have a GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) position receiver (an electronic box that can accurately determine your location) you can couple its position output information to the APRS system for automatic position reporting. The GPS receiver "reads down" position information from a network of GPS satellites circling the earth in known, predictable orbits). From this information the GPS receiver calculates your latitude and longitude, with accuracy to a few yards.

At **Pacificon 98**, this forum, like many others, while free, was a "sell-out" with standing room only. Barry Winkler, KC6WYA, will tell us about the many virtues of APRS. Locally, the number of users of APRS has steadily grown. The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC, again, the host of Pacificon) sponsors a wide area digipeater for APRS on 145.01 MHz. The software program has gone through numerous revisions and now includes every feature imaginable. Come and find out if APRS is for you.

YL Forum

Beth Murphy, KD6CDR, will again show what fun the women in amateur radio are having. What new ideas they are having and what directions they are taking to better amateur radio while having lots of excitement.

Northern California Packet Association:

The Northern California Packet Association (NCPA) will again participate in **Pacificon 98**. The NCPA is the digital band planner in this region and is

concerned with the implementation of packet radio into a coordinated system which maximizes its usefulness.

Aside from the usual information and hand-outs, the APRS Group plans to have a demonstration of remote control and sensing using packet, also a keyboard to keyboard and/or BBS demonstration.

The NCPA will again sponsor the popular "Packet Q & A" session. Unlike most of the sessions (which are presentations) this is a discussion and a time for answering your questions about packet. As of this writing, so far the panel includes amateurs active in packet satellites and the BBS network.

QRP and Kit Building

Before the days of the large commercial manufacturers of ham radios, we all built our own. We operated QRP (low power). Now you have the chance to relive the thrills of yesteryear. Doug Hendricks, KI6DS, will present a program on QRP and kit building. He will demonstrate his NORCAL40 transceiver and show you how you can enjoy this part of the hobby, from home or on the road.

Emergency Program

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, will be presenting a description of the Incident Command System (ICS), which is an emergency response system activated during natural and man-made disasters, under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

SEMS is a structure of emergency procedures used almost universally by cities and counties to cope with disasters that can affect many communities simultaneously. It is under these systems that amateur radio operators assist in emergency communications.

Ed's talk will discuss ICS, SEMS and Ham Radio, the ready kit, and the process of activation of the Ham community in response to an emergency. The talk will provide a demonstration of the ICS System in operation, and there will be some hands on practice and exposure for participants.

National Weather Service Weather Spotter Program

The National Weather Service Office in Monterey California operates a network of volunteer weather spotters to better record

weather and assist in development and validation of weather models for more accurate predictions.

Members of the Monterey NWS staff will present one forum each day of **Pacificon 98** to describe the program to radio amateurs who might be interested in participating.

Spread Spectrum

Much of the future of Packet Radio lies in the Spread-Spectrum mode. This is a mode that can provide data rates greater than your modem or ISDN line, while sharing frequencies effectively with other users and even other services.

This talk, by Bruce Perens, K6BP, will give a technical overview of spread spectrum, frequency hopping, direct sequencing, channel sharing, multipath communication, processing gain, and will also discuss recent FCC regulatory action on spread spectrum, TAPR activities, other amateur spread spectrum developers, sources of spread spectrum equipment for Amateur Radio, and commercial spread spectrum equipment. Perens will also discuss those bands with commercial and amateur spread-spectrum sharing frequencies.

No Code!

Bruce Perens, K6BP, an ARRL member and founder of "No Code International", says, "it's time to drop all code testing and revitalize the Amateur service." He'll present the international treaty and local laws that keep CW testing in place today. He'll discuss how we can keep our present high standards for Radio Amateurs by replacing the code test with additional operating and theory questions. He'll show how you can be active in lobbying ARRL and FCC to modernize the Amateur service.

License Restructuring!

FCC wants to know how to restructure the Amateur service. Meanwhile, the loss of ham bands accelerates as hundreds of megahertz are handed over to incompatible "sharing partners", and even our most popular VHF bands are under attack. Who to blame? Us. It's time to restructure the Amateur service so that we can justify the bandwidth we use. We can do that by making education our primary mission for the next century. Bruce Perens, K6BP, discusses license restructuring proposals and presents his own.

Satellites and the Amateur

Ever think about joining the thousands of hams who enjoy the growing world of satellite communications everyday? Well, think again, and plan on attending **Pacificon 98** to learn that satellite communications can be easy and inexpensive to add to your shack. The technical sessions for **Pacificon 98** will highlight practical satellite communications.

A special events station at **Pacificon 98** will allow **Pacificon 98** attendees to interact first hand with satellite tracking software (provides azimuth and elevation headings and doppler shifts of approaching and overhead satellites) and an operational satellite station involved in real satellite QSOs! Learn how the new Phase 3-D satellite offers fantastic possibilities for satellite hamming.

So, now is the time to learn about satellite communications. Another great reason to attend **Pacificon 98**.

Other Convention Activities

PACIFICON BANQUET: Always a sellout!

The Saturday night **Pacificon 98** gourmet buffet dinner will feature the ever-popular ham radio speaker, **Gordon West, WB6NOA**.

Whether you're a ham or not, Gordon West, author of a popular column in the experimenter's magazine *Nuts and Volts*, provides a great talk of interest to all. In addition to being a ham radio operator, Gordon is an avid blue water sailor.

The Saturday night **Pacificon 98** banquet will repeat the gourmet buffet dinner. Our buffet dinner attendees can select from beef, chicken, and vegetarian entrees. The buffet dinner cost will be \$29 per person. As usual, these dinners sell out early so be warned: if you want to attend, reserve now!

If you're an ARRL member, have a current ham license, and can stay awake past midnight, you are welcome to join the Wouff-Hong Society. Read on!

The Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong

Wouff-Hong History

Years ago, a guardian of amateur radio operating practices regularly appeared as a

writer in *QST*, the monthly ARRL news magazine. Known benevolently as "the Old Man", he signed his articles that addressed his favorite subject as T.O.M. The tradition of his admonishments to be good operators has lasted and grown through the years.

Pacificon 98 is one of the few occasions when there is an opportunity for licensed hams, who are members of the ARRL and who hold a current amateur radio operator's license, to join this secret society, The Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong, and learn its contribution to ham radio. You can join ARRL at the **Pacificon 98** convention: stop by the MDARC booth.

The Midnight Wouff-Hong Ceremony

The mystic and secret ceremony will be held at midnight on Saturday, October 17. Sign up at the convention and become a member. You will learn the secret handshake, receive the secret password, and receive a certificate of membership (suitable for framing) (for a modest fee of \$1.00 to defray the cost of printing and mailing)!

Swap Meet Saturday

The popular **PACIFICON** Amateur Electronics Swap meet will be held Saturday morning (one day only) on the tarmac (asphalt ramp to non-pilots) behind (north of) the Airport Sheraton Hotel.

Year after year sellers (many fellow hams) have found hams ready to purchase and carry away that special ham and electronics gear that was to be found no place else.

Hours are from 6 AM to 11 AM on Saturday only. Admission is free to buyers, still only \$10.00 for sellers for a double wide space. Spaces are sure to go fast and will be available on a first come, first served basis with no reservations ahead of time.

Look through your shack and garage -- someone wants the gear you no longer use. Breakfast will be available with a menu of special baked goods as well as hot dogs, donuts, soft drinks and coffee.

MORE EXHIBITORS

All Exhibits in Pacific States Aviation Hanger -- adjacent to Hotel

This year all **Pacificon 98** exhibitors will set-up in the hanger adjacent to the Airport Sheraton. A much larger exhibit area with no crowded aisles! PACIFIC STATES AVIATION has allowed Pacificon use of their large, clean, aircraft hanger, just a few steps across the parking lot from the Sheraton's doors.

Don't miss the opportunity to see all the latest in ham gear and related equipment, components, and books in one location. More exhibit hall space means more Amateur Radio businesses can participate at **Pacificon 98**. There will be many opportunities for special convention prices on a variety of Ham related items.

Exhibit Hours

The Exhibit Hanger will open:

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

More Exhibitors

Previous and current exhibitors have included:

AA6EE Callbooks	Mount Diablo
Alinco Electronics	Amateur Radio Club
Amateur Radio School	NG/Comet Antenna
AMSAT	Northern California
ARRL Incoming DX	Packet Ass'n
QSL Bureau	Palomar Engineers
Battery Tech Books, etc.	QR ZED Engraving
Cable Experts	Radio Shack
Computer Nut	Ramsey
CQ Communications	Electronics, Inc.
Cynthia Wall,	RF Parts/
KA7ITT	Diamond Antenna
E.H. Yost & Co.	Smiley Antenna Co.
Force-12/	Solder-It Co
Buy USA, Inc.	Standard Radio
Ham Radio Outlet	Starfire Tech
Hats For Hams	Startek
ICOM America, Inc.	International, Inc.
JPS	Swiech
Communications Systems	Communications
Kenwood USA Corp.	The Radio Place
Larson Electronics	The Wireman
Link	Tower Tech.
Communications	Worldradio
Microvideo Products	Yaesu USA

ARRL Walk-in VE Test Sessions

Those new to amateur radio, and amateurs who wish to upgrade to a higher grade of license, can walk-in to one of the ARRL VE Test Sessions. Examinations for Novice class through Extra Class licenses are given each day of **PACIFICON 98**.

Friday night: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon
Sunday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

Exam retakes are available Sunday morning, if needed.

You will need one photo ID and one other form of ID. If currently licensed, bring originals and a copy of your FCC Amateur Radio license. Also bring the original and copy of any CSCE. The examination fee is \$6.25

Foot and Fanny

The concept of the Foot and Fanny, first inaugurated many years ago, will again be kept alive at **PACIFICON '97**.

What is it all about?

You will have the opportunity to send Morse code using a telegraph key that is about 20 times the normal size. And you can send using your foot or *gluteus maximus*. You get the idea. Certificates will be awarded for those who can send simple words like "Mississippi" and "Tennessee". Here is your chance to show off your real keying ability and have your efforts photographed for posterity.

Transmitter Hunting

This year's popular Transmitter-Hunt contest will be conducted by Rich Harrington, KN6FW, a well known local Master of the Hunt.

There will be two hunts. The first will encompass an area within a half mile of the Sheraton Hotel, and it will be an easy hunt. Beginners, as well as experienced hunters, will find this event to be fun. The second hidden transmitter will also be within walking distance. It may be a bit more difficult to find. Hunters will meet at the Sheraton at 8:00 AM Sunday morning (meeting point directions at the **Pacificon** Registration Counter in Lobby). Instructions will be available for



beginners. Learn how to use relative signal strength and antenna directivity to "home-in" on the elusive transmitter.

A simple attenuator can be made for your handheld antenna with a mailing tube and aluminum foil. We'll show you how. There will be certificates for the winners in all classes of hunts.

Join in the fun!

MDARC

Once again, the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) will sponsor the ARRL Pacific Division convention. For many years running, **PACIFICON** has entertained, educated and enthralled people interested in Amateur Radio. Chances are that if you are interested in some aspect of Ham Radio, you will find it demonstrated, talked about, or sold during **Pacificon 98**.

Proceeds from **Pacificon 98** are used to continue to support many worthy programs. The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) has provided scholarships to licensed amateurs (or those awaiting their license) who are either residents of Contra Costa County or members of MDARC.

Other programs funded by **Pacificon 98** include donating radio-related publications to high school and public libraries. Support is offered to radio clubs in schools and other worthy causes. Your support of **Pacificon 98** ensures that these and other worthy programs will be continued. For more information contact:

Pacificon 98
P.O. BOX 272613
Concord, CA 94527
(925) 932-6125
www.mdarc.org email:
pacifcon@designlink.com

Sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC)

Location and Accommodation

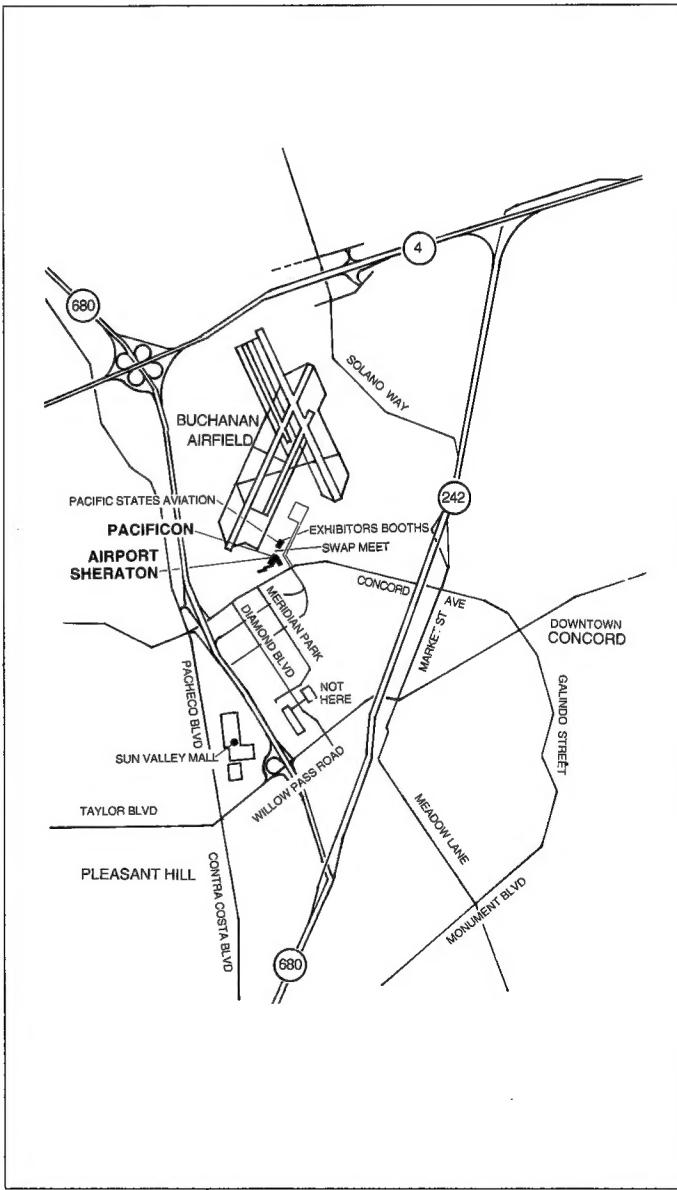
The Airport Sheraton Hotel is a luxury hotel located in Concord, 27 miles east of San Francisco. Accommodations include:

- Complete Fitness Center
- Indoor Swimming Pool and Jacuzzi
- First class in-hotel restaurant
- Lounge with nightly entertainment
- Pets allowed
- Disability access
- Smoking and non-smoking rooms
- Coffee maker in every room
- Full business center, including A/V services, copy machines, Internet access, and transparency-making capability
- Free shuttle service for Hotel guests to area shopping centers such as Sun Valley Mall, the Willows, Bay Area Rapid Transit (an easy way to San Francisco and Oakland), and Concord's Buchanan Airport
- Golf course and driving range adjacent to the hotel

The Sheraton is offering convention attendees and exhibitors a special **PACIFICON '98** room rate of only \$76 for each night (single/double), if reservations are made before October 2nd. Additional guests will cost \$10 per person and \$15 per bed.

You must mention **PACIFICON '98** when reserving your accommodations at the hotel to get this special rate. To make reservations, contact the Concord Airport Sheraton Hotel at 1-800-325-3535. We recommend you get your reservations in early. Special rate rooms are likely to sell out early July. Sorry, no overnight RV parking allowed in hotel parking lot.

PACIFICON '98 WILL BE HELD AT THE AIRPORT SHERATON OCTOBER 16-18, 1998.



ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

PACIFICON '98, October 16-18, 1998

AIRPORT SHERATON HOTEL,

Concord California

Advance Registration Deadline: October 2, 1998

Enclose check or money order for amount indicated. No cash please! Pick-up your tickets at the **PACIFICON** Registration Desk in the hotel lobby on your arrival. Enclose SASE if you want tickets returned by mail. To obtain the **PACIFICON '98 hotel rate of \$76 per room (single/double)** call the hotel directly: CONCORD AIRPORT SHERATON HOTEL, at 1 (800) 325-3535

Please type or print your name and address

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How many?

Antenna Seminar * _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____
(Friday only)

Admission*: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____
(valid Sat and Sun)

Gourmet Buffet _____ @ \$29.00 = \$ _____
(Saturday eve)

TOTAL = \$ _____

Pacificon admission does not include the Friday Antenna Seminar (see above), which must be prepaid. PACIFICON '98 admission valid Saturday and Sunday.

*Admission is \$ 7.00 at the door.

BRAD WYATT, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division
American Radio Relay League
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111 USA

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit Number 2929

TIME DATED MATERIAL

NEWSLETTER 0008043099 07/2

4540S39 P1

October 16-18, 1998
Amateur Radio Convention
at the Concord Airport Sheraton

